

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/029 W

----- 002693

P R 071237Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5476

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, SG

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN YOUTH SECURITY CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 1779

BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBOFF DISCUSSED SEPARATELY EFFORTS TO SEEK U.S. REPRESENTATION AT THE OSLO MEETING WITH BOTH SPD YOUTH DIRECTOR HANS PETER WEBER AND FRG DELEGATE TO OSLO MEETING ERIK BETTERMANN, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE GERMAN YOUTH COUNCIL. BOTH SUPPORT ATTENDANCE U.S. YOUTH COUNCIL DELEGATION AT WARSAW CONFERENCE, ALBEIT SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY. END OF SUMMARY.

1. WEBER REITERATED HIS FULL SUPPORT FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF A USYC DELEGATION IN THE WARSAW CONFERENCE AND IN THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS. HE DECLARED HE HAD BEEN VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY USYC PRESIDENT ERNIE GREEN WHEN THE LATTER VISITED BONN IN DECEMBER AND THAT SUCH U.S. PARTICIPATION WOULD BE AN ASSET TO WARSAW CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES. WEBER STATED THAT HE AND SEVERAL OF HIS WEST GERMAN COLLEAGUES WANTED TO INSURE THAT CSCE BASKET THREE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY HUMAN RIGHTS, PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE AT THE JUNE MEETING. WEBER
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THOUGHT A BALANCED U.S. VOICE IN WARSAW THAT WOULD

STRESS OTHER ISSUES AS WELL WOULD BE A WELCOME CONTRIBUTION.

2. WEBER VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WOULD TELEPHONE NORWEGIAN YOUTH LEADERS LARSEN AND BULL, BOTH OF WHOM ARE OLD PERSONAL FRIENDS, TO SEEK THEIR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING A USYC INVITATION TO THE WARSAW CONFERENCE. HE RECOMMENDED THAT ERNIE GREEN SEND A TELEGRAM TO THE OSLO PREPARATORY MEETING THAT WOULD BOTH:

-- CONGRATULATE THE PARTICIPANTS, AND

-- REQUEST INCLUSION OF THE USYC AS A FULL

PARTICIPANT IN THE WARSAW CONFERENCE, AND OTHER PREPARATORY MEETINGS AS WELL.

3. WEBER CAUTIONED THAT HIS SUPPORT FOR AN INVITATION DID NOT EXTEND TO THE ACYPL. SINCE THIS LATTER ORGANIZATION HAD OBSERVER STATUS IN THE EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVE FEDERATION, AS A GOOD SOCIAL DEMOCRAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ENDORSE ITS INCLUSION AT WARSAW. SHOULD, ON THE OTHER HAND, GREEN WANT TO INCLUDE SPENCER OLIVER OR ANY OTHER ACYPL MEMBERS IN A USYC DELEGATION, THAT WAS A DIFFERENT MATTER AND FULLY ACCEPTABLE.

4. BETTERMANN, WHO WILL BE THE ONLY FRG DELEGATE AT THE OSLO MEETING, WAS NOT QUITE AS FORTHCOMING AS WAS WEBER. BETTERMANN SAID HE SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF INVITING THE USYC TO WARSAW AS A GUEST PARTICIPANT, BUT THAT HE DOUBTED THAT AT THIS LATE STAGE IT WAS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE USYC EITHER WOULD BE INVITED TO THE OTHER PREPARATORY MEETINGS -- ONE PROBABLY WILL TAKE PLACE IN YUGOSLAVIA -- OR WOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN WARSAW AS A REGULAR DELEGATION. FOLLOWING THE EAST BERLIN FESTIVAL IN 1974, THREE PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR THE WARSAW CONFERENCE HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE NEAR LAKE BALATON IN HUNGARY, BETTERMANN NOTED, IN WHICH THE U.S. SHOWED NO INTEREST. "THE TRAIN", HE SAID, "HAD LONG SINCE LEFT THE STATION."

5. EMBOFF ARGUED THAT WITH THE HELSINKI SUMMIT A NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRAIN HAD ENTERED THE SCENE. EVEN THE CHANCELLOR IN HIS NEW YEAR'S EVE STATEMENT HAD DECLARED THAT THE MOST NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE CSCE AGREEMENT WAS THAT THE U.S. AND CANADA WERE NOW ACCEPTABLE TO THE EAST AS PARTICIPANTS IN EUROPEAN DISCUSSIONS. WHY THEN COULD U.S. YOUTH GROUPS NOT ALSO BE INCLUDED AS FULL PARTICIPANTS IN THE WARSAW MEETING? BETTERMANN ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF CSCE, BUT HE FELT THE WARSAW

MEETING WAS NOT BOUND TO THE SAME MEMBERSHIP.

6. BETTERMANN PROTESTED THAT HIS RESERVATION ABOUT FULL

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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U.S. PARTICIPATION WAS NOT DIRECTED AT THE USYC. HE WAS STRUCK BY THE INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITY OF THOSE MEMBERS WITH WHOM HE HAD COME IN CONTACT. (HE ALSO THOUGHT GREEN WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO CABLE THE OSLO PARTICIPANTS WITH A REQUEST THAT THE USYC BE INCLUDED IN THE WARSAW MEETING.) RATHER, HE WAS REPRESENTING THE REACTION OF MANY WEST EUROPEAN YOUTH LEADERS TO U.S. YOUTH POLICY OF THE PAST DECADE, WHICH HAD SUCCEEDED IN ALIENATING NEARLY EVERY MAJOR WEST EUROPEAN YOUTH GROUP. THE U.S. - BACKED WAY (WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH) HAD BEEN DISOWNED BY EVERY SINGLE FRG MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL YOUTH COUNCIL FROM ONE END OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM (JUNGE UNION) TO THE OTHER (JUSOS). WAY'S APPROACH HAD BEEN MUCH TOO PATRIARCHAL, MARKED BY HEAVY-HANDEDNESS AND ALMOST TOTAL UNWILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH EAST EUROPEAN YOUTH GROUPS. BETTERMANN ADDED HE HAD NO USE EITHER FOR THE "POLITICAL CAREERISTS" IN THE ACYPL.

7. IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR THE U.S. TO REGAIN A FOOT-
HOLD IN WEST EUROPEAN YOUTH CIRCLES BETTERMANN CLAIMED.
BILATERALLY, THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE FEDERAL YOUTH
COUNCIL AND THE USYC IS MOVING AHEAD. ONE CANNOT
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EXPECT HOWEVER THAT THE USYC WILL BE IMMEDIATELY
ACCEPTED THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT AFTER THE PAINFUL
EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE OVER THE LAST YEARS WITH INTER-
NATIONAL U.S. YOUTH DELEGATIONS, TOPPED BY THE UNFORTU-
NATE CONTINGENT AT THE 1971 HELSINKI YOUTH CONFERENCE.

8. BETTERMANN AGAIN PROMISED NONETHELESS TO SUPPORT
USYC GUEST PARTICIPATION AT WARSAW. IT WAS, HE SAID,
NOW OUT OF THE QUESTION THAT A U.S. DELEGATION COME TO
OSLO AT THIS LATE DATE. HE GRANTED THAT WERE A WARSAW
INVITATION TO BE FORTHCOMING IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE
TO HAVE A U.S. DELEGATE AT THE NEXT PREPARATORY MEETING
AFTER ALL, SINCE IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT U.S.
DELEGATES THIS TIME BE PROPERLY BRIEFED IN ADVANCE,
RATHER THAN "PLUNGE LIKE WILD BULLS INTO A CHINA SHOP"
AS HAD OCCURRED IN 1971 AT HELSINKI. BETTERMANN
PROMISED TO INFORM EMBOFF ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE OSLO
PREPARATORY MEETING WHEN HE RETURNS NEXT WEEK TO BONN.

9. COMMENT: BETTERMANN'S CRITICISM OF U.S. YOUTH
POLICIES OF THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WAS NEITHER BITTER
NOR OVERLY EMOTIONAL IN TONE. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE
HAD SAID MUCH THE SAME LAST JANUARY TO THE US-FRG
CULTURAL CONFERENCE AT HARRISON HOUSE IN LONG ISLAND.
HE IS IN FACT ANXIOUS THAT WELL-STRUCTURED FURTHER US-
FRG YOUTH DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE, AND THAT OTHER WEST
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BE INCLUDED IN TIME AS WELL.

10. WEBER OPINED THAT THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WANT TO
CONSIDER INVITING BETTERMANN TO THE U.S. FOR A FEW DAYS
DISCUSSION AFTER THE OSLO MEETING. EMBOFF DID
NOT RAISE THIS POSSIBILITY WITH BETTERMANN AT THIS
STAGE. DEPARTMENT REACTION REQUESTED.
HILLENBRAND

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